

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAB-01 /065 W

----- 004770

R 271045Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2094

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: LIBYAN ATTACKS ON EGYPT AFTER SUSPENSION OF
DISENGAGEMENT TALKS

1. AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, LIBYAN PRESS AND MEDIA LOST NO TIME IN CROWING OVER SUSPENSION OF SINAI TALKS AND WHAT THEY HOPED WOULD BE SADAT'S DISCOMFITURE. MARCH 24 EDITORIAL CRITICIZED EGYPT FOR TAKING PART IN NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED THROUGH INTERMEDIARY OF "ZIONIST KISSINGER", AND APPARENTLY REACTING TO COUNTERATTACKS IN THE EGYPTIAN PRESS, ON MARCH 26 AN EDITORIAL DEFENSIVELY HELD THAT "COLONEL QADHAFI, WHOM MASSES OF HIS NATION KNOW FOR PATIENT AND STEADFAST FIGHTER FOR UNITY, DIGNITY, AND PROGRESS, WILL NOT BE DIVERTED FROM HIS PATH BY CRIES AND HOWLS...." (OF EGYPTIAN PRESS).

2. AT SAME TIME, JUST AS DURING PROPAGANDA WARS OF LAST
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SUMMER BETWEEN EGYPT AND LIBYA, PRESS IS PUBLISHING

TELEGRAMS TO QADHAFI SUPPORTING HIM AGAINST SADAT WHICH ARE ALLEGED TO COME FROM VARIOUS TRIBES AND GROUPS IN EGYPT, NOTABLY "FIVE MILLION STRONG" AWLAD ALI TRIBE. LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY HAS ALSO CLAIMED THAT DURING RECENT MEETING OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CAIRO KHADDAM OF SYRIA ATTACKED EGYPTIAN POLICY "BITTERLY AND VIOLENTLY", ALONG, NATURALLY, WITH LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVE.

3. FROM SUCH EVIDENCE, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT QADHAFI HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY EMBOLDENED BY EVENTS. IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE, BUT IT IS WORTH NOTING, THAT PRINCIPAL TARGET OF HIS PROPAGANDA HAS NOT BEEN THE ISRAELIS OR U.S., BUT SADAT.
STEIN

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